

- (ii) Linkages in the higher education sector in the areas of Economics, Business Administration, Agriculture, Health, Law, Information Technology, Science and Technical Education;
- (iii) Establishment of institutional linkages, especially through the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the University Grants Commission of India;
- (iv) Exchange of printed material on educational development in the two countries;
- (v) Exchange of experiences between National Book Foundation in Pakistan and National Book Trust (NBT) and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in India for the reproduction of books required for education;
- (vi) Exchange of expertise and experience in the fields of elementary, secondary and adult education.

Target for providing basic education

2914. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the Economic Survey of India, the country will miss the target for providing basic education to all by 2007 as 70.5 lakh children in the age group of 6-14 were still out of school till March, 2006;
- (b) if so, to what extent the budget provision will help in stepping up its effort to achieve it by 2010; and
- (c) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. From 4.4 crore children who were out of school in 2001, the number came down to 1.34 crore by July-August, 2005 and has further come down to 70.5 lakhs in 2006. This constitutes the "hard to reach" group of children.

(c) Context specific interventions for children who are "hard to reach" such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, have been taken up under SSA. The Government of India has undertaken 17 orientation and capacity building workshops with States/UTs with illustrative case studies of good practices, to encourage State/districts to do such context specific interventions.

Ban on interview for nursery admission

†2915. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a ban has been imposed by the court on interviewing parents/children seeking admission to private nursery schools;
- (b) the provision for its implementation and the penalties provided for its violation;
- (c) whether such a ban is also not required for nursery schools in other parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the initiatives being taken by Government in this direction, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Though Media has reported regarding ban on interviewing parents/children seeking admission to private nursery schools, no-Court Order regarding this has been received.

(c) and (d) 'Education' being a subject under the concurrent list of the Constitution, such schools come under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

Status of creamy layer students in reservation

2916. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the fact that the oversight Committee headed by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.